



## ENVIRONMENTAL WATER ACCOUNT

An essential goal of the CALFED Program is to provide increased water supply reliability to water users while at the same time assuring the availability of sufficient water to meet fishery protection, restoration, and recovery needs as part of overall ecosystem restoration. The Environmental Water Account (EWA), a component of CALFED's Water Management Strategy, will allow environmental managers to use assets, including water and money, to provide greater flexibility in helping with fish species recovery. Along with the EWA Operating Principles that are part of the Record of Decision (ROD), accomplishments this year include:

- Established an interagency EWA Team to acquire, store, and allocate water. The Team is developing and implementing the EWA.
- Completed the environmental review and acquired the first EWA assets.

**GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:** The EWA was established to provide water for the protection and recovery of fish beyond water available through existing regulatory actions related to project operations. The EWA focuses on resolving the fishery and water diversion conflict at the CVP and SWP Delta export pumps. In recent years, these diversions have suffered the greatest fluctuations in water supply reliability due to conflicts with fishery needs. The EWA is a cooperative management program that will help to protect fish through environmentally beneficial changes in CVP/SWP operations at no uncompensated water cost to the projects' water users.

The CALFED agencies will acquire, bank, transfer, and borrow water and arrange for its conveyance for the EWA. The assets will be managed by the federal and state fishery agencies (US Fish & Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, and California Department of Fish & Game) in coordination with project operators and stakeholders through the CALFED Operations Group. Having water available in the EWA gives decision-makers the flexibility they need to protect fish species, without adversely affecting water project operations.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** The EWA Operating Principles list the tools available to the EWA team to acquire assets. Under these principles, the CALFED agencies can acquire and store water from willing sellers, exchange water, and bank or borrow water in order to meet its objectives.